

**EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDER
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
DOLORES PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE**

Emergency Closure of Select Public Lands in Montezuma County, CO

Action:

Pursuant to 43 CFR 9268.3(d) and 43 CFR 8364.1, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is giving notice that public lands near Cortez, Colorado, as described below, will be closed to all motorized vehicle use on non-designated routes starting February 1, 2009 lasting until the completion of a Travel Management Plan for the affected areas. This closure affects public lands administered by the BLM, through the Dolores Field Office, known locally as Phil's World, Cash Canyon and Stinking Springs. This closure is necessary to prevent further adverse effects to cultural and natural resources where resource damage is occurring. The potential for additional adverse effects as a result of unrestricted motorized vehicle use within the area is substantial and significant.

Affected Area:

The area referred to as Phil's World, Cash Canyon and Stinking Springs encompasses lands managed by the BLM at: New Mexico Principle Meridian, Township 38 North, Range 15 West, Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 14, 15, 22 and 23. The sections included in this closure are also shown on the attached map entitled "Closure to Motorized Vehicle Travel on Non-designated Routes". The area will remain open to motorized travel on routes designated as open. Designated routes are defined as routes that are signed and/or posted as open, and depicted as such on the attached map. Any persons possessing or operating a motor vehicle on a route not designated as open will be in violation of the closure. Signs are posted at the entrance to Phil's World indicating the route designation in the closure area. Signs are also posted at the entrance to Cash Canyon and Stinking Springs.

Prohibitions:

1. It is prohibited to possess or use motorized vehicles on any route in the closure area not designated as open, as depicted in attached map.

Dates:

This closure is effective immediately and will remain in effect until the travel management plan is completed.

Supplemental Information:

Pursuant to 43 CFR 9268.3, and 43 CFR 8364, the following are exempt from the provisions of this order:

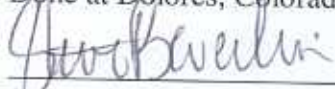
- a. Any Federal, State or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force engaged in fire, emergency, or law enforcement activities, or public utility employees engaged in emergency repairs;
- b. BLM employees, contractors, or agents engaged in official duties;
- c. Individuals operating within the scope of their official and legitimate governmental duties;
- d. Additional persons may be allowed, but must carry written approval signed by the BLM Authorized Officer, Dolores Field Office.

Addresses:

Maps of the closure area may be obtained from the Dolores Public Lands Center located at 29211 Highway 184, Dolores, Colorado 81323, Phone 970-882-7296. The areas affected by this closure order will be posted with appropriate regulatory signs and/or physical barriers.

Penalties: On all public lands under section 303(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), 43 U.S.C. 1733(a), 43 CFR 8360.0-7, and 43 CFR 9262.1, any person who violates any of these supplementary rules, closures or restrictions on public lands of this order may be tried before a United States Magistrate and fined no more than \$1,000.00 or imprisoned for no more than 12 months, or both. Such violations may also be subject to enhancement fines provided for by 18 U.S.C. 3571 (not to exceed \$100,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months).

Done at Dolores, Colorado, this 28th day of January, 2009.



Steve Beverlin

Field Office Manager / District Ranger

Dolores Public Lands Office

Closure to Motorized Vehicle Travel

